

# **Souhegan WMPAAC Annual Report November 2006**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch

NH Senate President, Theodore L. Gatsas

Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr.

Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Michael P. Nolin  
and the State Library

November 1, 2006

by the

Souhegan River Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Souhegan River Water Management Area Advisory Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2006. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, "Each Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee shall make an interim report regarding its progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the State Library."

The Souhegan WMPAAC met July 17, 2006 to be briefed on the results of the Instream Flow Studies in the Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report. The conceptual framework of the Instream Flow Study based on Poff's Natural Flow Paradigm is that protection of the timing, duration, frequency, magnitude, and rate of change of flows is necessary to protect aquatic habitat. Protected flows were therefore described for a number of periods during the year reflecting the natural highs and lows that occur. Protected flow descriptions also included allowable durations when flows could drop below specified flow magnitudes before management alternatives would be implemented. This information will go in detail before the public at the public hearing later this year.

The next duties of the WMPAAC fall mainly in the Water Management Planning stages where they will evaluate the sub-plans proposed for each Affected Water User and Affected Dam Owner. The committee will review the selected alternatives in the draft Water Management Plan to ensure all the affected parties have appropriate levels of effort in meeting the protected flows.

## **Committee Changes**

There were no changes in membership from the previous year.

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Souhegan WMPAAC at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/souhegan.asp?link=meetings&meet=wmpa>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the WMPAAC meetings. UNH maintains a Souhegan Instream Flow Project website at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/souhegan/>.

**SOUHEGAN RIVER WATER MANGEMENT PLANNING AREA ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (WMPAAC)**

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